

**Proposed Water Quality Standards
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Public Notice and Request for Comments**

Submitting Comments to the Tribe

Written comments can be sent via email or post office to:

Naomi Tillison
Bad River Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
wqs@badriver-nsn.gov

Comment deadline is March 28, 2011

Proposed Water Quality Standards can be found at:
Bad River Natural Resources Department
Chief Blackbird Center
72682 Maple St.
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-7123

Description of Water Quality Standards

In June 2009, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorized the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Tribe) to administer a water quality standards program under section 303 of the Clean Water Act. The Tribe is proposing for public review and comment draft Water Quality Standards under the Clean Water Act. The goal of the Tribe in developing these standards is to protect the water resources of the Reservation for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Tribe seeks comments on its proposed Water Quality Standards. The Tribe will consider and respond to all comments received by the comment deadline, and will determine any changes which may be needed, before proceeding with final adoption of its Water Quality Standards. After this process and upon formal adoption of the Water Quality Standards by the Tribe, the Tribe will submit the Water Quality Standards to EPA for approval or disapproval as required by section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

Elements of the Proposed Water Quality Standards

Three key components, required by the Clean Water Act, are contained in the proposed Water Quality Standards:

Designated Uses: Designated uses describe the Tribe's management objectives for Reservation waters. The Tribe's proposed Water Quality Standards designate a set of uses for the water resources on the Reservation including: aquatic life and fish, recreation, cultural, wild rice, wildlife, cold water fishery, cool water fishery, commercial, navigation, and wetland.

Water Quality Criteria: Water quality criteria are limits on specific chemicals or conditions in a waterbody, which are necessary to protect particular designated uses. The proposed Water Quality Standards include both numeric criteria and narrative criteria.

Antidegradation Policy: An antidegradation policy protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under the Tribe's proposed antidegradation policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that would lower the water quality of a body of water. The more pristine or significant the waterbody, the greater the level of protection.

Public Hearing

The Tribe will hold a public hearing on March 28, 2011, at the Bad River Lodge and Casino Convention Center in the Madigan Room at 5:00 p.m. Written and spoken comments regarding the proposed water quality standards will be accepted at the public hearing.